5 years lock-in period has not been completed, no existing shareholder has been allowed to sell their stake to M/s. Bharti post migration.

(c) M/s. Bharti Cellular Limited, who have a Cellular License in Delhi Metro city, have been permitted to migrate from the license fee regime as envisaged in the existing license to a revenue sharing regime under New Telecom Policy-1999 with effect from 1.8.1999. However, all license fee dues till 31.7.1999 is to be paid by the company and no license fee amount due upto this cut-off date has been waived.

Opening of Sub-post Offices in Farukhabad, U.P.

†1241. PROF. RAM BAKHSH SINGH VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sub-post offices functioning in the District Farukhabad, Uttar Pradesh as on September, 1999;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of sub-post offices in the above district;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the criteria laid down by Government for the opening of sub-post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN S1KDAR): (a) 35 Sub-Post Offices are functioning in the District Farukhabad, Uttar Pradesh as on September, 1999.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Nil in view of (b) above.

(d) The norms for opening of Sub-Post Offices are given in Statement.

Statement

CRITERIA FOR UPGRADING/OPENING DEPARTMENTAL SUB-POST OFFICES

(a) *In Rural Areas*

The minimum workload of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- (Rupees Two Thousand Four Hundred) in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- (Rupees Four Thousand Eight Hundred) in Tribal and Hilly areas.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) *InUrban Areas*

In Urban Areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms for each other.

Heads of Postal Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Areas should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Foreign Exchange spent on Purchase of Equipment for ITI Palghat

1242. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ITI Palghat assembling large exchanges like El0B and OCB-283 and were meeting the demand of DOT;

(b) whether it is a fa£! that the DOT has done away with the practice of 30 per cent demand reserve for the ITI;

(c) if so, the reasons for calling global tender; and

(d) the price difference and total amount of foreign exchange spent for the purchase of these equipments during the last three years'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) (i) Yes, Sir.

ITI, Palghat is manufacturing OCB-283 Exchanges.

ITI, Palghat was manufacturing DTAX equipment of El0B design, production of which has since been phased out.

(ii) ITI has been meeting part requirement of DOT.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

(d) No foreign exchange has been spent by DOT for purchase of these equipments during the last three years.